

The Henry A. Van Voorhis House
S.E. Cor. Maywood and Magnolia Avenue
Maywood, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Henry A. Van Voorhis House
S.E. Cor. Maywood and Magnolia Avenue
Maywood, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: John G. Dentz, New York City

Custodian: The Hackensack Trust Company, Hackensack,
New Jersey

Dates of Erection: Minor wing ca. 1780; and remodelled
ca. 1860; main house ca. 1822-1828

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Original unit by Nicholas Romine ca. 1780;
main house by Henry A. Van Voorhis 1822-1828;
extension of minor wing by Andrew A. Van
Voorhis ca. 1860 (owners)

Present Condition: Fair; original mantels and stairs
removed

Number of Stories: One and one-half over cellar in
main unit. Roof of original one story
minor unit was jacked up to allow an upper
story during alterations and additions
about 1860 as the belly windows indicate

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - west end and south front
of main unit are formal coursed ashlar
red sandstone; east end and rear are also
coursed but less formally cut stones;
walls of original minor wing are broken
range work and the 1860 extension thereof
is coursed stonework. Frame gable ends
above eaveline, clapboarded

Interior walls - stone party wall and frame
partitions all plastered

Chimneys - brick above roof

Roofs - wood shingled; front porch tin roofed,
gable (not original) on minor unit and
gambrel on main unit, modern dormers

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Historical Data:

By deed of 28 April 1810, Nicholas Romine and wife Sarah of the Precinct of New Barbadoes, Bergen County, conveyed to Lucas Van Saun of same place for \$4470.80 four tracts of land there, respectively of 40 $\frac{3}{4}$, 12, 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres. The first is described as bounded west by the road (now Maywood Avenue) leading north from the post road (now Essex and Terrace Avenues) which leads south to Pollifly, northeast by the lands of Paulus Vanderbeck, Abraham Vanderbeck and said Lucas Van Saun, east by the Vall brook, and southwest by the land of John Romine. Apparently the small house now forming the west part of the remodelled minor wing was then existing on the lot.*

The grantee, Lucas Van Saun(a) and wife Lanny passed title to the latter's brother Henry A. Van Voorhis by their deed of 18 January 1822, the consideration money being \$5000, all the parties being described as of Bergen County. Henry Van Voorhis who thus came into possession conveyed to his brother

* These roads appear on Robert Erskine's survey map of Bergen County 1778-79, reproduced by the Bergen County Hist. Soc. 1920, but no houses are indicated on them as on others.

(a) Lucas⁴ Van Saun, bapt. 17 Aug. 1746 at Hackensack R. D. Ch., son of Isaac Van Saen and wife Maria Demarest, mar. Magdalena Berdan, lived near Hackensack, and had issue (all bapt. there): Isack b. 27 June 1774, a child b. 7 Nov. 1778, David b. 20 Mar. 1781, Maria b. 4 Dec. 1784, Christina b. 1 July 1787, and Johannes b. 16 July 1793 of whom further. (Wm. Nelson, Hist. of City of Paterson & County of Passaic, New Jersey, 1901, p. 289).

(b) Johannes Van Saun, b. 16 July 1793, youngest son of Lucas Van Saun and wife Magdalena Berdan, mar. Lena Van Voorhees, b. 27 Aug. 1793, dau. of Albert Van Voorhees and wife Rachel Hopper, and had issue: Albert b. 5 Feb. 1814, Marian b. 21 Nov. 1815 who mar. Jacob Bensen, Lucas b. 29 July 1818, and John b. 11 Mar. 1820. (Nelson, cited above, p. 291).

Andrew A. Van Voorhis^(c) by deed of 18 July 1828 and undivided half of all the tracts of land lying in the Townships of New Barbadoes and Saddle River, reciting the deed of 18 January 1822 above-said, and likewise of all the tracts conveyed to grantor by his father Albert A. Van Voorhis by deed of 10 April 1820, excepting such parts already conveyed by grantor.

Andrew A. Van Voorhis abovenamed, being of Midland Township^(d) conveyed to his only son John H. Voorhis^(e) of same place, by deed of 3 August 1876, among other lands, the "First tract, being whereon the dwelling house of the party of the first part is erected, standing and being, and begins at a point in the middle of the Public Road known as Maywood Avenue," containing some 50 acres, bounded northwest by Maywood Avenue, east by Dead Vall brook, and southwest by the railroad.

John H. Voorhis and wife Anna M., of Maywood village, Midland Township, sold the 50 acre part of the paternal farm and conveyed it by deed of 29 December 1887 to The Maywood Land and Improvement Company for \$15000. That corporation conveyed the same tract, with other land, to Henry Lindenmeyr and Gustav L. Jaeger on 25 March 1890. The last named conveyed his half interest back to the company on 15 January 1897, as likewise did the executors of Lindenmeyr's estate on the 20th next. The company then conveyed to Mary Elizabeth Stoddart of Maywood, by their deed of 22 March 1899, lot no. 5 in block no. 6 as the farm had been laid out, having a frontage of some 243 feet on the southwest side of Magnolia Avenue and 145 on the southeast side of Maywood Avenue. This grantee, as Elizabeth P. Shape (formerly Mary Elizabeth wife of William L. Stoddart) with her husband Robert L. Shape of New York


(c) Andrew A. Voorhis, b. 1 Oct. 1802 in Hackensack, mar. 23 March 1826 Mariah S. Schoonmaker. "He has spent his entire life as a farmer, is very quiet and unassuming in his manner, and now in his old age enjoys the confidence and respect of all who know him." His wife d. 5 Mar. 1874. Children: Euphemia mar. Thos. Voorhis, Elizabeth decd., and John H. (Clayton, Hist. of Bergen & Passaic Counties, New Jersey, 1882, p. 329).

(d) Midland Twp. incorporated 1871 from New Barbadoes Twp. and part set off as the borough of Maywood 1894.

State, passed title to John G. Dentz and wife, of Maywood, by deed of 11 March 1922. Mr. Dentz, an architect now of New York City, remains as owner of the house at the time your survey thereof in July 1940 and it is in the custody of the Hackensack Trust Company.

Reference:

Search of title in the land and probate records of Bergen County by Joseph Benenati, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 1st November 1940



Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer